with catalyst/additives were heated in a coker drum to about 450 degree centigrade and the liquid product was collected separately after condensation. The liquid fuel generated from the plastic contains highly cracked components which require stabilisation with an appropriate antioxidant. It also has a high diene value contributing to potential gum formation and high chlorine content. However, the liquid obtained is a rich source of alpha-olefins and could be used as a petrochemical feed stock.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Production of CBM

3335. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government for producing Coal Bed Methane in the country; and

(b) the details of present Budget allocation for the purpose in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) To harness the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) potential, as an alternate source of energy, the Government has approved the CBM Policy which provides for award of blocks on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for exploration and production of CBM. In the first offer of blocks under the Policy, five blocks, *i.e.* two blocks each in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and one block in West Bengal, have been awarded. The contracts for all these five blocks, have been signed, two with the Consortium of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), one with Essar Oil Limited and one with Reliance Industries Limited. In addition, the contracts for two blocks, *i.e.* one each in Jharkhand and West Bengal, have been signed with the consortium of ONGC and Coal India Limited (CIL). Also, the contract for one more CBM block in West Bengal has been signed with M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL).

(b) In view of the provisions of CBM contracts, presently no budgetary provision has been made.